

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 4, 7-12 and 19-21 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-12, 19 and 20 stand rejected. The Examiner objects to claims 7 and 8. Claims 1, 4, 11, 12 and 19 have been amended as set forth herein. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 have been cancelled herein. All amendments and cancellations are made without prejudice or disclaimer. New claim 21 has been added herein. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendments. Specifically, the amendment to claims 1 and 4 are supported by original claims 2, 3, 5 and 6. Amendments to claims 11 and 12 are made only to update dependency of these claims.

Amendments to claim 19 are supported by the specification at, for instance, page 14. New claim 21 is supported by the specification at, for instance, page 14, lines 2-4. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As indicated by the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, and as corrected herein, the status claim 19 is reflected as "Currently Amended." Thus, consideration of the Reply submitted November 6, 2006 is respectfully requested.

The Reply of November 6, 2006 is otherwise incorporated herein by reference as if presented in its entirety in response to the outstanding issues presented in the Office Action of May 5, 2006.

CONCLUSION

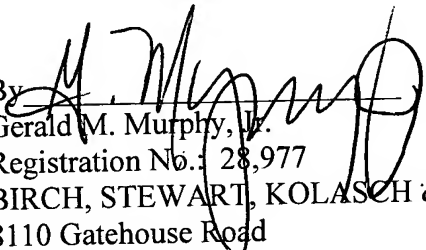
If the Examiner has any questions or comments, please contact Thomas J. Siepmann, Ph.D., Registration No 57,374 at the offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated:

JAN 31 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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